

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Also, I really
object to the public
airwaves being used
to further a
political agenda. If
Sinclair is going to
air this
documentary, then it
needs to air a
documentary from an
opposing viewpoint
as well. If I'm not
mistaken, Sinclair
also refused to
allow ABC to read a
list of those who
have died in Iraq on
the grounds that to
do so was a
political act. It
has also refused to
air ads it views as
political (i.e. --
not supportive of
the Bush
presidency.)

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to

strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.

We don't live in the
Soviet Union, you
know!